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09/901,345	07/09/2001	Wei-Hsin Chen	U 013548-1	6026

7590

11/28/2003

Ladas & Parry  
26 West 61th Street  
New York, NY 10023

EXAMINER

TRIMMINGS, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2133

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,345

Applicant(s)

CHEN, WEI-HSIN

Examiner

John P Trimmings

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

The examiner acknowledges priority of application based on 35 USC 119(a)-(d).

### ***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: when referring to binning 1 through binning 5, one would be inclined to search the drawings for these binning numbers, but the examiner does not find the same references in the drawings. The examiner understands that binning categories such as recited is based on a test result, and so the recommendation is that when referring to binning categories in the disclosure, the wording such as "binning category 1" should be used. Appropriate correction is required.
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 2, line 3, there is a recitation "and compared it with". The examiner requests that this instead read "and compared with". Appropriate correction is required.
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 2, line 14, there is a recitation "affirmative. Since...". The examiner requests that this instead read "affirmative, since...". Appropriate correction is required.
4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 5, line 9, there is a recitation "without EA pin...". The examiner believes that this instead should read "without the EA pin...". Appropriate correction is required.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 7, line 7, there is a recitation "conventional method. Since...". The examiner requests that this instead read "conventional method, since...". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 5 objected to because of the following informalities: The limitations in this claim are not indented. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chun et al., U.S. Patent No. 6133727, in view of Jiang et al., U.S. Patent No. 4654829, and further in view of Pham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6367042.

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As per Claim 1:

Phan et al. teaches a method of storing a circuit identifier (1<sup>st</sup> type) on a chip (column 4 lines 27-30) which identifier is in turn used to verify the circuit to the test equipment (see Abstract), but does not teach cutting a line to permanently set the code. But, Jiang et al. teaches the method of permanently encoding the identifier by cutting the targeted line(s) (column 10 lines 10-37). However, Phan and Jiang do not teach the method of preparing and using a standard sample to verify the tester. But, Chun et al. teaches a method for verifying Tester setups by preparing a pre-certified (2<sup>nd</sup> type) standard circuit (see Abstract and column 5 lines 27-30), and executing predetermined tests to verify that the tester is operational (column 5 lines 48-67 and column 6 lines 1-6). Chun et al. also teaches the method of testing the product by first verifying the identifier, then if good, continuing with full testing of the standard for functionality (column 5 lines 15-55). One with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, motivated to both effectively verify tester functionality and create a standard sample (column 6 lines 22-28 of Chun et al.), would have found it to be obvious to combine the three references above.

As per Claim 3:

Claim 3 is dependent on Claim 1, and further limits the predetermined tests to specific types. The predetermined tests executed in Claim 1 above are described in Chun et al. in general and broad terms, and so one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, motivated to provide a wide range of tests to verify tester

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functionality, would find the range of tests being claimed by the applicant to fit within the scope of the above reference.

As per Claim 4:

Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1, and further limits the predetermined tests to being executed after the identifier is verified. The teachings of Chun et al. above, specifies that the verification occurs first (column 5 lines 23-27), and so the Claim 4 is rejected.

2. Claims 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chun et al., U.S. Patent No. 6133727, in view of Jiang et al., U.S. Patent No. 4654829, in view of Pham et al., U.S. Patent No. 6367042, and further in view of Lee et al.

As per Claim 2:

Claim 2 is dependent on Claim 1 above but further limits the signal that is cut to being the write enable signal. In an analogous art, Lee et al. cuts the write enable signal (column 5 lines 40-49) in order to permanently set the circuit in a specific mode. One with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in order to permanently modify a circuit, would find it obvious to combine Lee et al. with the teachings in Claim 1 above, and so the Claim 2 is rejected.

As per Claim 5:

Claim 5 recites all of the limitations and requirements that are taught in Claims 1, 2, 3, and 4 above. Since these limitations in Claims 1-4 above are rejected, Claim 5 is also rejected.

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As per Claim 6:

Claim 6 is dependent on Claim 5 above, and limits Claim 5 to the testing of the standard sample to verify if the tester setup is good. This Claim 6 is also taught in the rejection of Claim 1 above, and so is also rejected.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P Trimmings whose telephone number is 703-305-0714. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

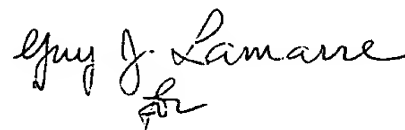
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on 703-305-9595. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-2394.

John P Trimmings  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2133



jpt



Albert DeCady  
Primary Examiner